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Message Text

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51
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 EA-06 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O R 121550Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1048
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2548

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH, ZA, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: ZAMBIANS AND ANC LEADERS LOOK TO BRITISH
FOR NEXT STEPS

1. BRITISH COLLEAGUE (MILES) CALLED ON ME TODAY, DEC 12, TO
SAY THAT PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA MADE FIRST OFFICIAL
CONTACT WITH HIM LATE AFTERNOON DEC 11 AND THEN CAME OVER TO
BRITISH HICOM RESIDENCE JUST ONE HOUR BEFORE IAN SMITH
MADE HIS DRAMATIC CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT. THEY HAD 20-MINUTE
CONVERSATION. MILES GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE OF SMITH ANNOUNCEMENT;
BRIEF REPORT ON THE LUSAKA TALKS; AND REMINDER TO
ADVISE THE BRITISH THAT NEXT STEPS REGARDING THE CALLING
OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE UP TO
THEM.

2. CHONA DESCRIBED TALKS AS RUNNING INTO CERTAIN
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MISUNDERSTANDINGS (PRESUMABLY REGARDING THE ISSUE OF

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IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE) BUT THESE HAD BEEN SORTED OUT,
THUS ENABLING SMITH TO PLAY HIS PART WITH THE HISTORIC
RADIO/TV ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEC 11 ACCORDING TO
PREARRANGED SCENARIO (CAPE TOWN'S EXDIS 873). ALTHOUGH
UK HICOM HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HMG
HE "THOUGHTALOUD" THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE MUCH
PARALLEL CONSULTATION BETWEEN BRITISH REPS AND SMITH ON
ONE HAND AND BRITISH AND BLACK AFRICANS ON THE OTHER
BEFORE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IS CALLED. CHONA TOLD
MILES THAT ZAMBIA EXPECTED THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
TO BE CALLED IN LONDON. PRESIDENT NYERERE HAS ALSO
MADE THIS POINT CLEAR TO THE BRITISH.

3. FCO SECRETARY CALLAGHAN VISITS ZAMBIA DEC 28 - JAN 3.
PRESIDENT KAUNDA LEAVES LUSAKA DEC 14 FOR CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAYS IN HIS HOMETOWN OF CHINSALI IN NORTHEAST
ZAMBIA WHERE HE WILL REMAIN INTO THE NEW YEAR.
ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR CALLAGHAN TO VISIT
HIM THERE JAN 2. PRESUMABLY PLANS WILL BE LAID FOR
NEXT STEPS.

4. UK HICOM WAS NOT AMONG DIPLOMATS WHO WENT OUT
TO AIRPORT THIS MORNING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
AND PUBLIC TO SEE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST
LEADRS OFF ON THEIR RETURN TO RHODESIA AS FREE MEN.
HE CONSIDERED IT "INAPPROPRIATE TO BE BASKING IN
REFLECTED GLORY" IN VIEW OF PAST AND EVEN RECENT
CRITICISM FROM RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADERS AND HOST
GOVERNMENT FOR UK FAILURE TO PUT DOWN RHODESIAN
REBELLION IN FIRST PLACE. ONE OF NKOMO'S DEPUTIES,
CHINAMANO, TOLD ONE OF MILES STAFF THAT RHODESIAN
NATIONALISTS ALSO FELT THE NEXT MOVE WAS OVER TO BRITAIN.

5. TANZANIAN HICOM WAS NOTICEABLY ABSENT FROM AIRPORT
FAREWELL AND WHEN I INQUIRED OF HIM LATER HE SAID HE
ABSENTED HIMSELF FOR "TACTICAL REASONS." WAS IT POSSIBLE
HIS PRESIDENT WOULD BE MAKING A COMMENT ON THE SMITH
STATEMENT? HE REPLIED IT "HIGHLY UNLIKELY," LAYING
STRESSON "HIGHLY." HE WOULD SAY NO MORE WHICH LED
ME TO WONDER IF DIFFERENCES HAD ARISEN BETWEEN PRESIDENTS
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NYERERE AND KAUNDA OVER THE ISSUE OF DROPPING THE IMMEDIATE
MAJORITY RULE PRECONDITION FROM THE TERMS OF RESUSCITATING
CONSULTATIONS ON A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

6. I WENT TO AIRPORT IN RESPONSE TO RADIO/TV APPEAL
TO "ALL INTERESTED PERSONS" TO SEE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS
OFF. ALSO PRESENT WERE DUTCH DEAN OF CORPS,
SCATTERING OF AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION AND SOVIET AND

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CHINESE AMBASSADORS WHOM I STOOD ALONGSIDE IN PROTOCOL
LINE-UP. FELT MY PRESENCE CONSISTENT WITH US
SPOKESMAN'S WELCOME OF CEASEFIRE IN RHODESIA AND
USEFUL REBUTTAL TO TIMES OF ZAMBIA DEC 7 EDITORIAL SPECULATING
ON "ELEMENTS WITHIN THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN
ADMINISTRATIONS TO WHOM A SETTLEMENT OF THE
VEXATIOUS RHODESIAN ISSUE ... WOULD BE DISASTROUS.
THESE ELEMENTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE EVERY
TRICK IN THE BOOK TO CREATE IMAGINARY OBSTACLES TO A
FINAL SETTLEMENT." RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADERS
WENT DOWN LINE AND GREETED ALL DIPLOMATS WARMLY,
EXCEPT FROLIZI'S CHIKEREMA WHO CHOSE INSTEAD TO KISS MY
SOVIET COLLEAGUE ON CHEEK, SKIPPING ME.
WILKOWSKI

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